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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 RABAT 04772 071610Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------121823 071631Z /47
O 071550Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6336
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T RABAT 4772

EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MASS MO CG
SUBJECT: REPORTED MOROCCAN REQUEST FOR TRANSPORT OF ADDITIONAL TROOPS TO SHABA

1. ACCORDING TO BELGIAN AMBASSADOR, KING HASSAN TOLD BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET DURING AUGUST 4 AUDIENCE THAT HE HAD DECIDED TO SEND ADDITIONAL 250 TO 300 MOROCCAN TROOPS TO ZAIRE IN RESPONSE TO AN APPEAL FROM COLONEL LOUBARIS, WHO WAS CONCERNED OVER REBEL INFILTRATIONS IN THE TANGANYIKA REGION. THE KING STATED THAT HE HAD ASKED THE USG TO PROVIDE C-141 TRANSPORATION FOR THESE FORCES. OTHERWISE THEY WOULD HAVE TO GO BY SEA. THE KING ASKED THAT THE BELGIANS SUPPORT HIS REQUEST. SIMONET INSTRUCTED BELGIAN CHARGE IN WASHINGTON TO GIVE SUPPORT "AT A HIGH LEVEL," STRESSING THAT THE GOB CONSIDERS A POSITIVE US RESPONSE DESIRABLE.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT AF HAS DELAYED CHARGE'S CALL UNTIL TODAY AFTER INFORMING HIM THAT IT WAS NOT AWARE ANY SUCH REQUEST HAD BEEN RECEIVED. WE FURTHER UNDERSTAND ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE WILL SEE HIM IF REQUEST IS MEANWHILE RECEIVED. DEPARTMENT APPARENTLY EXPRESSED INTEREST TO CHARGE IN KNOWING WHETHER
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TROOPS WOULD BE EQUIPPED. ON AUGUST 6 BELGIAN AMBASSADOR LEFT MESSAGE WITH THE OFFICES OF ROYAL COUNSELORS GUEDIRA AND BOUTALEB TO THE EFFECT THAT THE USG HAS NOT RECEIVED THE REQUEST DESCRIBED BY HASSAN. WE HAVE NOT BEEN APPROACHED BY GOM, AND BELGIAN AMBASSADOR HAS RECEIVED NO REACTION TO HIS MESSAGE.

3. COMMENT: THE KING ON JULY 21 TOLD ASSISTANT SECRETARY

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SAUNDERS THAT HE WAS SENDING AN ADDITIONAL 500 SOLDIERS EQUIPPED WITH JEEPS, HEAVY MACHINE GUNS, MORTARS AND COMMUNICATIONS GEAR. WHILE THIS STATEMENT CAME DURING A GENERAL DISCUSSION THAT INCLUDED AN APPEAL FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF THE COSTS OF THE AFRICAN PEACEKEEPING FORCES IN ZAIRE, THERE WAS NO REQUEST FOR THE TRANSPORT OF THESE ADDITIONAL FORCES. (FOR FULL ACCOUNT OF THE CONVERSATION SEE RABAT 4441 NOTAL). FOR THE MOMENT THE BALL SEEMS BACK IN THE MOROCCAN COURT.

4. S/S REQUESTED TO BRING THIS CABLE TO ATTENTION OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE BEFORE 1400 EDT.
ANDERSON

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NNN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Draft Date: 07 aug 1978
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition History: n/a
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